DEC'S book on Distance Education

2707. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the book 'Information base on Distance Higher Education in India' published by Distance Education Council (DEC) during December, 2004;

(b) whether courses/programmes run by the various universities mentioned in the above book are as per UGC/DEC norms/instructions;

(c) whether Degree, awarded by the universities mentioned in the above book are valid for Government job; and

(d) the proposal of Government to publish this book every year to give proper information to the students/professionals about the programmes/courses run by the various universities through distance education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the information furnished by Indira Gandhi National Open University, in addition to the normal programmes approved by University Grants Commission, the Open and Distance Education System in the country also offer programme relevant to work place and societal needs at Certificate and Diploma level. The list of courses/programmes mentioned in the book is indicative of the programmes on offer and are not necessarily approved by Distance Education Council (DEC).

(c) The degree awarded by universities through distance mode are valid for Government job provided these are approved by the Distance Education Council.

(d) The DEC proposes to bring out Information Base regularly, on yearly basis, as a part of its promotional activities.

Textbooks under SSA

† 2708. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.